

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05185 271407Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5419

S E C R E T JIDDA 5185

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US SA

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF (A) STATE 185253, (B) JIDDA 5072, (C) STATE 177834,
(D) JIDDA 5139

1. I APPRECIATE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN PARA 5 REFTEL A,
BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU I HAVE NO COMPUNCTION WHATEVER ABOUT
INFORMING THE SAUDIS CONCERNING THE UNSUITABILITY OF THE
PAYMENTS SCHEDULE THEY HAVE PROPOSED. I WILL SEE MANSOURI
THIS MORNING AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER PRINCE SAUDI WILL BE
AVAILABLE TOMORROW. I PROPOSE TO KEEP THE EXCHANGES AT THIS
STAGE AT SAUDI'S LEVEL, BECAUSE FAHD APPARENTLY PREFERS THAT
IN VIEW OF FACT HE DELEGATED SAUDI TO APPROACH ME ON MATTER
(REFTEL B). IF SAUDI IS AVAILABLE, I WILL GIVE HIM A PAPER
SETTING FORTH EXPLANATION IN FIRST THREE PARAS REFTEL A AND
URGE EARLY RESPONSE. IF HE IS NOT AVAILABLE, I WILL SEND PAPER
TO HIM THROUGH MANSOURI UNDER COVER OF A PERSONAL NOTE.

2. YOU WILL HAVE IN MIND, I AM SURE, THAT THE ONLY CAVEAT
CONTAINED IN REFTEL C CONCERNED ALTERATIONS OF PAYMENT PERIOD
BEYOND FIVE YEARS, WHICH SAUDIS HAVE NOT SUGGESTED, AND THEY
MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT.

3. SOME TIME AFTER WE TIE THIS ONE UP, I INTEND TO PROPOSE TO
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YOU THAT WE SUGGEST TO SAUDIS THAT THEY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY

FOR ALL OF JORDAN'S MILITARY AND DEFENSE NEEDS. WE COULD USE THE MONEY TO GREATER ADVANTAGE ELSEWHERE, AND WITH LESS DOMESTIC STATIC. IF WE COULD INDUCE SAG TO ACCEPT THAT CONCEPT IN CONTEXT OF SAUD'S THINKING AS EPXRESSED REFTEL D, I THINK IT COULD MARK THE BEGINNING OF A MORE NATURAL AND BROTHERLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO STATES.

4. IN DEALING WITH THIS JORDAN DEFENSE PROBLEM AT PRESENT STAGE, I WILL KEEP IN MIND FINAL TWO SENTENCES OF PARA 5 REFTEL A, BUT I DO NOT INTEND TO MENTION THAT ASPECT OF THINGS UNLESS SAUDIS BALK COMPLETELY, WHICH I THINK UNLIKELY.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

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